



JUN 12 1992

Department of the History of Science

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Professor Joshua Lederberg
 The Rockefeller University
 New York, 10021-6399
 Fax: 202-327-8956; Tel.: 7809

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Would it be possible to meet with you on Thursday, June 18 (anytime, but since I am also trying to schedule meetings with Profs. Nerton (to get advice on an essay review of Joseph Ben David's collected works (Ucal. Press, 1991) that American Scientist has asked me to do) and Zuckerman (on our projects on women in science), perhaps you might be able to suggest two alternative time slots on that day.

Re: the US, UK & Canada HSS Meeting in Toronto, I wonder whether you might be interested to participate as a commentator; since Sapp withdrew, I had to substitute for him as a speaker (with my OSIRIS 1992 paper - page proofs enclosed under separate cover) so my previous "position" as one of two commentators (the other is Olby) is available (previous experience suggests to me that an each participant should be limited to one task only). The session is scheduled for Sunday, July 26.

The topics I hope to discuss with you on June 18 include:

a) The role of "informal groups" (a la Phage Group in the 1940s or Antibody Workshop in the 1960s), in microbial genetics and molecular biology, in view of my pending revision for Everett's special issue based on a Mellon workshop last April (Program enclosed, under separate cover) in which I was assigned to talk on the role of institutions in the rise of molecular biology. The deadline for the revised paper is June 15 but I hope to get a 1 week extension.

b) Your suggestions for a future study of research schools in fields related to molecular biology, e.g. microbiology, microbial genetics in the 1950s, as an extension of my previous NSF project (on res.sch. in molecular biology), so to explore the role of these informal social formations in other biodisciplines.

c) Last but not least, your collaborative work with EL. In view of our previous correspondence on this subject, I decided to write a collective essay on collaborative couples, so there will be a few pages only on the Lederbergs. It will be most helpful if I could have some concrete idea of your perspective on this collaboration for the period ending in 1959.

May I also remind you to please send the Ezrahi report.

I look forward to hearing from you. With best wishes for a great summer,

Encl.:

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Phina Geraldine Abir-Am
 Dr. Phina Geraldine Abir-Am
 (NSF Visiting Associate Professor)

x ↓

*pls phone
 only time available
 is 11-11 30
 WILL NOT DISCUSS item (c)
 June 10, 1992*